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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (11/20): IRAQI SECURITY AGREEMENT
"ENDS IRAQ"

Main Stories:

Al Ayam and Al Hayat Al Jadida lead with news of Israel's continued closure of Gaza crossings. Al Ayyam quotes Israel's Defense Minister Barak telling Israeli Defense radio on November 19 that Hamas must enforce the ceasefire among Palestinian factions, before Israel will reopen crossings. Al Hayat Al Jadida further notes that Barak's statements came in response to recent UN calls on Israel to open Gaza crossings. The paper adds that UNRWA food supplies that support 750,000 refugees are running low and that UNRWA has announced that it will soon be forced to stop cash assistance to 98,000 Gazans. Al Ayyam's lead photo shows Palestinians in Gaza waiting for bread after the largest bakeries stopped production due to a lack of flour caused by the crossing closures.

Al Quds leads with news about the Arab Foreign Ministers meeting that will discuss the peace process and Palestinian division on November 26. The paper reveals that Palestinian Authority President Abbas will boycott the meeting because he is angry over the failure of Arab League Secretary General Amr Mousa to openly blame Hamas for the failure of Palestinian talks in Cairo. Reporting continues that Hamas plans to attend the meeting while the League has stated that Hamas' participation must be approved by Abbas. In related news, Al Quds' front page reports that Fatah member Mismar revealed on November 19, that Fatah will delay its party convention until internal Palestinian division is ended. On an inside page, the paper runs related news that Egypt has sent an addendum to its Palestinian unity proposal to Palestinian factions. The text has been reviewed by "relevant Arab states."

The removal by the Israeli Jerusalem municipality of a "protest tent" related to a Jerusalem house eviction is front page news in all dailies. The tent was erected by the Palestinian Jerusalem Al

Kurd family who were evicted last week so that "Israeli settlers" could take possession of the property. The papers publish front page photos of the tent removal and statements by family supporters that they will erect another tent. Al Quds adds that the protest action has attracted much media attention and that Israeli police arrested five supporters near the tent. In related reporting, Al Quds reports on an inside page that Israeli settlers in Hebron are bracing for a showdown with the Israeli military that has been ordered to evacuate them from a four-story building. Israeli Defense Minister Barak confirms that he will execute the order, but only after first attempting to persuade the settlers to leave peacefully, reporting notes.

Al Hayat Al Jadida front pages statements, by Israel's President Shimon Peres describing recent comments by British Foreign Minister Miliband about Israeli settlements as "painful" to Israel. During a recent visit to the Palestinian Territories, Miliband urged Israel to halt settlement activity that he deemed, "an obstacle to peace."

Al Hayat Al Jadida's front page reports that the Palestinian Authority will run announcements about the Arab Peace Initiative in Israeli media. The announcements are aimed at "convincing the Israeli public to accept the initiative," according to Yassir Ab'd Rabbo, PLO Executive Committee Secretary. Rabbo explained that the Israeli public, "does not understand the initiative, as they only hear about it from Israeli officials who have distorted and criticized it." In related reporting, Al Quds' front page notes that Palestinian Authority President Abbas is on an unannounced visit to Amman to discuss regional developments with the Jordanian

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King.

Al Quds' front page cites a report by the Palestinian Central Statistics Bureau revealing that 33,000 Palestinian children are engaged in child labor and 800,000 live in poverty.

Al Quds' and Al Ayyam's inside pages publish warnings issued by the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem about visa fraud schemes. Speaking during a press roundtable, the Consulate fraud prevention officer also explained procedures for applying for the U.S. diversity visa lottery.

On an inside page, Al Hayat Al Jadida publishes a photo of USAID Director Huward Sumka and Palestinian partners inaugurating renovations at a school and clinic in Shawawra village near Bethlehem. Sumka is cited stating that the American people are committed to assisting the Palestinian people to create conditions for a dignified life.

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Jawad Bashiti writes in Al Ayyam under the title, "An agreement that ends occupation by ending Iraq!" (11/20): "The USA, unlike what some might think, isn't weighing whether or not to leave Iraq, but rather is deciding between having a military presence in a united Iraq or in only parts of Iraq, a country which was one, but now is divided. The [security] agreement is strong proof that the U.S. decided to take the second option. By signing the agreement, the Maliki Government has signed an agreement that ends U.S. occupation in Iraq, by eliminating Iraq itself."

2) Majid Azzam writes in Al Quds under the title, "The peace process replacing peace" (11/20): "Thirty years ago Henry Kissinger created the term "peace process" so as to ensure the continuity of the process, regardless of [achieving] peace itself. ... I think we can expect a similar model of the Annapolis process replacing the peace process; meaning that, what matters is not the outcome or the achievement of a final, comprehensive, and just peace, but rather, just the Annapolis process itself."

Wallis